

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2704
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
FAMILY WELFARE PROGRAMME
SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is being examined with a view to utilizing dairy cooperatives, public distribution system, post offices/banks for distribution of contraceptives and basic medicines to check infant/children diarrhoea from anaemia and malnutrition amongst girls and pregnant mothers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a), (b) & (c) Yes, Sir. As per the National Population Policy, 2000, in order to widen outreach and coverage, dairy cooperatives and the public distribution systems are to be utilised for distribution of contraceptives and basic medicines. As regards the checking of diarrhoea, which remains one of the leading causes of child deaths, the Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORS) programme was started in 1986-87. Supplies of ORS packets are made available to the states as part of the drug kits i.e. Kit-A at sub-centre levels. States have been advised to market these ORS packets through the Public distribution system.

Government of India adopted a National Nutrition Policy in 1993. It envisages ways to utilise the public distribution system to bring about behavioral changes in feeding practices such as promoting breast-feeding to infants. The Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, the Special Nutrition Programme, the Balwadi Nutrition Programme and the Mid Day Meal Programme are under implementation, to bring about improvements in levels of anaemia and malnutrition among girls and pregnant mothers.